



NOVA SCOTIA

NEWS FROM

Department of Education

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH

In December and January, Ron Brunton and Danny Eddy from the NSTU, and I met with elementary, junior, and senior high principals in all boards to outline the main points in the Minister's response to the NSTU document *Time to Learn, Time to Teach*. One topic which generated much interest was the proposal to address the issue of "too many outcomes." We have announced that committees will be formed to identify "essential" outcomes in each of the subjects at various levels. The committees will be made up of teachers and representatives from various divisions within the Public Schools Branch: English Program Services, Evaluation, Student Services. The intent is to have an integrated approach to determining key outcomes as they are taught in inclusive (and sometimes combined) classrooms with a focus on aligning the written curriculum, the taught curriculum and the assessed curriculum. For example, staff from Evaluation services will have an eye to provincial, national and international assessments to ensure our selected key outcomes coincide with these assessments both in content and sequence. There will also be discussions about what classroom assessment should look like. I look forward to the work ahead in these areas.

Dr. Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch

Celebrate African Heritage Month

There are several ways you can access African Heritage Month event information this year. Visit the African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) website (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/>). There you will find a page dedicated to African Heritage Month with links to other sites featuring African Heritage Month information, events or activities.

The AHMI Network calendar of events can be accessed from the home page of the ANSA website and will be updated as new and/or revised information is received.

New this year is an events line: 902-424-3482. Events scheduled for the following day will be recorded daily. The line will be operational from January 31, 2008.

The Times of African Nova Scotians

This new newspaper has been sent to all high schools across the province. Several copies have been sent to the principal, the library, social studies teachers and ACS 11 teachers. Please look for a copy in your school. See if you can find your story! The newspaper contains new and interesting facts about African Nova Scotian history.

If your elementary or junior high school would like copies, please contact Maureen Finlayson, African Canadian Services Division, (902)424-7534 or finlaymm@gov.ns.ca



Nova Scotia
Virtual School

Online PD Modules from NSVS

The Nova Scotia Virtual School provides an online, interactive environment to support teachers as they integrate curriculum and technology to meet the needs of diverse learners. DOE Technology Integration Professional Development Modules are accessible using your staff.ednet.ns.ca login name and password at <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/moodle>. Under the *All Courses* link, locate *NS Test Playground* and Select *DOE Technology Integration PD Modules*. Follow the directions from there and you will receive by email, the enrollment key.

These modules are intended for self-directed learning. Some topics include: Audio Podcast Development, Photoshop Elements, The Images Project, Locating Creative Commons Licensed Images, PhotoStory 3, Marratech QuickStart Tutorials for Busy Teachers, Script Writing and Production Planning, Canadian Copyright.

**Watch for the Summer Opportunities
booklet, coming to a school near you!**

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February, and May.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to lrt@ednet.ns.ca.



Nova Scotia Students Have Their Say!

Some Nova Scotia students have a lot to say to their peers about why they should participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.

Five of them spoke about their experiences and demonstrated what they learned through the program in *Take the challenge, Live the achievement*—a new DVD produced by the Department of Education for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The video was launched at the Go for the Gold gala in Halifax on Nov. 3, 2007, celebrating the program's 30th anniversary in Nova Scotia, and will be sent to grade 8 to 12 classrooms this winter. Six new schools have added the Duke program so far this year—Oxford, Elizabeth Sutherland, Madeline Symonds, Citadel High, Northumberland Education Centre, and West Kings District High.

The award program is open to young people between the ages of 14 and 25. Participation is voluntary and participants must meet established criteria in four areas: volunteer service to the community, development of a hobby or skill, participation in physical fitness activities, and camping expeditions.

Under the Public School Program, students who complete award levels in the Duke program are eligible to receive up to three elective credits in high school.

High schools received program guides in September 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.dukeofed.org/ns>, e-mail dukeofed@sportnovascotia.ca, or phone 902-425-5454 (ext. 329).

New M.Ed in Curriculum Development / French Immersion Resource Education

Eighteen participants from across Nova Scotia began the first of a twelve course, Master of Education program on Saturday February 2nd, 2008. This new graduate program is based on an identified need to provide specialized student services support to students enrolled in the French Immersion program in school boards across Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Department of Education, all school boards offering French Immersion programs, and St. Francis Xavier University collaborated to develop this first 28-month M.Ed. cohort in

Curriculum Development with a focus on French Immersion Resource Education. The program will include such topics as differentiated instruction, assessment issues and practice, and research on learning in French Immersion. The courses will be given principally in French, using Canadian research literature and resources.

For more information, contact the program coordinators: Dr. Irène Bernard, St FX, ibernard@stfx.ca, or Daniel Demers, Department of Education, demersdd@gov.ns.ca



Grade 4 and 5 Students Participate in Science Olympics 2007

On a rainy day in October 2007, at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, ninety-seven grade 4 and 5 students participated in the 2007 Science Olympics. The event was sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Conserve Nova Scotia in collaboration with Nova Scotia Youth Experiences in Science.

The purpose of the first invitational competition was to bring together students and teachers from across the province to learn about energy from a science perspective in a fun and innovative way.

Anglophone and Francophone students from every school board including Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) were challenged to solve problems using their creativity and critical thinking skills. Grade 4 and 5 teachers will receive a consolidated booklet of the activities of the event that they can use in their classrooms.

Conserve Nova Scotia looks forward to an ongoing partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education to enable students to learn about science through "hands-on, minds-on" activities and events linked to curriculum in order to generate interest in the field of science and energy and excitement about learning.

For more information on the Science Olympics program, please contact Marilyn Webster, Science Consultant, Department of Education, websteml@gov.ns.ca or (902)424-4272.

conserve
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February is African Heritage Month

Find New Titles in the Education Media Library Online Catalogue

You can see new loan and dubbing materials available from the Media Library by visiting our online catalogue at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Search online catalogue. Click on the New Materials link. For more information, or to order materials, please call (902) 424-2440

Borrow one of our new titles:

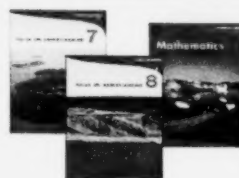
Fit Kids Re-energize your students with fun, contemporary dance routines featuring Judy Notte. Use this resource in any school space, anytime, any day to invigorate and motivate your students to get excited about being physically active. The program includes four 5 minute workouts and two 10 minute workouts. Suitable for grades p - 6.

English 12: African Heritage Pilot

The pilot for English 12: African Heritage language arts has been completed by twelve English 12 teachers. Information sessions for this course will be held in February in Halifax, Antigonish and Wolfville. These sessions will be led by the original pilot teachers and the African Canadian Services Division. Full implementation of English 12: African Heritage will begin in September 2008. This academic course addresses the full range of English 12 curriculum outcomes, while encompassing the experience, study, and appreciation of language, literature, media, and communication from an African heritage perspective. If you would like further information about this course or the information sessions, please contact Maureen Finlayson, (902)424-7534 or finlaymm@gov.ns.ca

Students' Art Exhibit at Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Students at Eastern Shore District High School have recently completed an ArtsSmarts project led by Shantay Grant, artist, and Diane Smaggus, teacher of English 12: African Heritage. The students created artwork that integrated fine arts into the language arts curriculum. Several of their creations are on exhibit at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for the month of February. Drop in and visit!



Mathematics 8: Focus on Understanding

In January 2008, the new grade 8 mathematics textbook *Mathematics 8: Focus on Understanding* was distributed to mathematics classrooms (English Programs). The new junior high series of mathematics textbooks is now complete. These textbooks and their accompanying Teacher Resource were written for the Atlantic Canada mathematics curriculum and will be a valuable core resource for teachers and students. Grade 8 classroom teachers will receive a one-day inservice on this new core resource this spring.

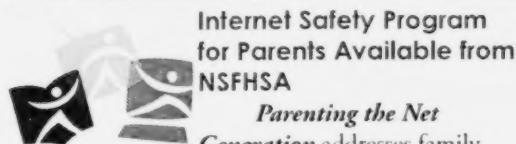
Inservicing for Grade 7 Geometry Outcomes

During the 2007-2008 school year, grade 7 mathematics teachers are participating in four days of inservicing from the Department of Education for the new grade 7 geometry outcomes. They have already attended one 2-day session featuring work on regular polygons, tessellations, regular polyhedra and semi-regular polyhedra. The second 2-day session to be delivered in February 2008 will focus on angle relationships, transformations, and geometric constructions. Every grade 7 classroom teacher will receive geometry materials. These materials include pattern blocks, power polygons, Polydrons, Geo-strips, Math-Vu Mirrors, Bulls-Eye Compasses and geometry templates.

Viewfinders International Film Festival for Youth is Looking for Great Works of Film!

Viewfinders is looking for films, videos and animation from Atlantic Canadians ages 18 and under. Submissions must be under 5 minutes, suitable for family audiences, and have soundtracks with original or public domain music. Deadline is March 28, 2008. Don't delay! Complete rules, Regulations and Entry Forms are online at <http://www.atlanticfilm.com/view/>. Viewfinders runs April 22 to 26, 2008.

February is African Month



Internet Safety Program for Parents Available from NSFHSA

*Parenting the Net
Generation* addresses family

interests and concerns on issues that arise when young people go online. The workshop touches briefly on many key Internet issues: Safety; Privacy; Marketing; Ethics; and Cyberbullying; Evaluation of Online Information.

Comprising a PowerPoint© presentation, speaking notes, and a workshop guide with handouts for participants, the one-hour workshop was developed for parents by the Media Awareness Network (MAN). Handouts are provided as well as posters for the schools. Sessions are interactive and a real educational opportunity for parents.

To access the workshop, please contact Janet Walsh, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations at president@nsfhsa.org.

New Courses Available from Correspondence Studies Global Geography 12 and Biologie 12 (français)

are now available for students.

For more information, visit our website at
<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca> > Correspondence Studies
or call (902)424-4054

Health Promoting Schools Showcase May 23 2008

Regional health promoting school teams will have the opportunity this spring to highlight some of the great work that they are doing in schools throughout the province.

The Health Promoting Schools Showcase will

be held in Dartmouth on May 23. There will be displays of the latest provincial school health practices, including healthy eating, physical activity, youth sexual health, tobacco reduction, addiction education, injury prevention, as well as other student supports and services in the school community.

Nova Scotia's Health Promoting Schools (HPS), a collaborative project that has been funded by the province since 2005-2006, provides a framework for coordinating school-health initiatives.

Going Gaelic...Gaelic Language and Culture Workshop May 1 and 2, 2008



English Program Services is once again pleased to offer teachers an opportunity to explore the language, history, oral tradition, identity, literature and other dimensions of Gaelic culture during a two-day workshop to be held at Dalbrae Academy, Mabou, May 1-2, 2008.

Highlights will include a variety of workshops including language, dance, music, storytelling, visual arts, a showcase of student work, and a ceilidh. Each Board will be invited to identify a team of up to six teachers. This workshop will be of interest to teachers of Gaelic Studies 11, Cultural Industries 11, Gaelic language teachers at any level, or teachers interested in offering these courses or incorporating aspects of Gaelic culture and history into existing courses in social studies and arts education. Please indicate your interest in attending by communicating with your principal. The Department of Education will cover all costs associated with this professional development opportunity according to the usual government rates.

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040	crandasc@gov.ns.ca	
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB)	902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-893-5890	(Truro - CCRSB, SRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVRSB)	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	lowead@gov.ns.ca	

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

